

The Charlotte Journal.

"Perpetual Vigilance is the Price of Liberty," for "Power is always Stealing from the Many to the Few."

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dent's Message.

(CONTINUED)

House of Representatives:

He required by law to be deposited in the Treasury, and not to be paid out of the Treasury until the condition of the stock is such that it is to be delivered to the creditors of that State. Congress shall otherwise direct the law.

Annual message, to which I refer, I state briefly the reasons why I have recommended a modification of the Tariff by converting the duty on such a character as to be such a discrimination in favor of the industrial products of our own country, as to encourage production without excluding foreign goods.

Various frauds which continue to be committed by the revenue, by invoices and returns, constitute an unanswerable complaint specific instead of advancing in all cases where the nature of the duty does not forbid it. A striking example of these frauds will be exhibited in the Treasury, showing the value of articles imported under the law subject to specific duties, and no inducement to undervalue the goods under the existing law. This is a condition of the present law, combined with the condition of some of the provisions of the law, caused by the frauds and consequent depression of the tariff in obtaining a fair return for our increasing surplus of goods and provisions, has induced me to recommend a modification of the existing law.

Chief of the Secretary of the Interior, to accompany this communication, a condensed statement of the operations of that important department.

It seems that the cash sales of the land exceed those of the preceding year, and there is reason to anticipate a further increase, notwithstanding the depression which has been made to the States, and the little grants to the States as a reward for military service. This fact furnishes very gratifying evidence of the growing wealth and prosperity of the country.

Various measures have been adopted for conducting the survey of the public lands in California and Oregon. Surveying parties have been organized, and some progress has been made in establishing the principal land meridian lines. But further legislation and additional appropriations will be necessary before the subdivisions can be made, the general land system extended over the entire portion of our territory.

On the 3d of March last, an act was passed providing for the appointment of three commissioners to settle private land claims in California. Three persons were immediately appointed, all of whom, however, declined to accept the office in consequence of the inadequacy of the compensation. Others were promptly selected, who, for the same reason, declined; and it was not until late in the year that the services of suitable persons could be secured. A majority of the commissioners convened, in this city, on the 10th of September last, when detailed instructions were given them in regard to their duties. Their first meeting for the transaction of business will be held in San Francisco on the 10th day of the present month.

I have thought proper to refer to these matters, not only to explain the cause of the delay in fulfilling the commission, but to call the attention of the proprietors of increasing the compensation of the commissioners. The same is one of great labor and responsibility, and the compensation should be such as to command men of high order of talent and of most unquestionable integrity.

The proper disposal of the mineral lands of California is a subject surrounded by great difficulties. In my last annual message I recommended the survey and sale of them in small parcels, under such restriction as would effectually guard against monopoly and speculation. But upon further information, and in reference to the opinions of persons familiar with the subject, I am inclined to change my recommendation, and to advise that they be permitted to remain, as at present, a common field, open to the enterprise and industry of all our citizens, until further experience shall have developed the best policy to be ultimately adopted in regard to the mineral resources that now exist, for a short period, then, by premature legislation to fasten the country a system founded in error, which may place the whole subject beyond future control of Congress.

The agricultural lands should, however, be surveyed and brought into market with as little delay as possible, that the titles may be settled, and the inhabitants stimulated to permanent improvements, and enter ordinary pursuits of life. To effect this it is desirable that the necessary legislation be made by law for the establishment of land officers in California and Oregon, for the efficient prosecution of the work at an early day.

It may justly be regarded as the greatest of our people. Four fifths

of our active population are employed in the cultivation of the soil, and the rapid expansion of our settlements over new territory is daily adding to the number of those engaged in that vocation. Justice and sound policy, therefore, alike require that the government should use all means authorized by the Constitution to promote the interest and welfare of that important class of her fellow citizens. And yet it is a singular fact that, whilst the manufacturing and commercial interests have engaged the attention of Congress during a large portion of every session, and our statutes abound in provisions for their protection and encouragement, little has yet been done directly for the advancement of agriculture. It is time that this reproach to our legislation should be removed; and I sincerely hope that this present Congress will not close their labors without adopting efficient means to supply the omissions of those who have preceded them.

An Agricultural Bureau, charged with the duty of collecting and disseminating correct information as the best mode of cultivation, and of the most efficient means of preserving and restoring the fertility of the soil, and of procuring and distributing seeds and plants and other vegetable productions in regard to the soil, climate, and treatment best adapted to their growth, could not fail to be, in the language of Washington, in his last annual message to Congress, a "very cheap instrument of immense national benefit."

Regarding the act of Congress approved 28th September, 1850, granting bounty lands to persons who had been engaged in the military service of the country, as a great measure of national justice and munificence, an anxious desire has been felt by the officers entrusted with its immediate execution, to give prompt effect to its provisions. All the means within their control were, therefore, brought into requisition to expedite the adjudication of claims, and I am gratified to be able to state that near one hundred thousand applications have been considered, and about seventy thousand warrants issued within the short space of nine months. If adequate provision be made by law to carry into effect the recommendations of the Department it is confidently expected that, before the close of the next fiscal year, all who are entitled to the benefits of the act will have received their warrants.

In my last annual message I gave briefly my reasons for believing that you possessed the constitutional power to improve the harbors of our great lakes and coasts, and the navigations of our principal rivers, and recommended that appropriations should be made for completing such works as had already been commenced, and for commencing such others as might seem to the wisdom of Congress to be public and general importance. Without repeating the reasons then urged I deem it my duty again to call your attention to this important subject. The works on many of the harbors were left in unfinished state, and consequently exposed to the action of the elements, which is fast destroying them. Great numbers of lives and vast amounts of property are annually lost for want of safe and convenient harbors on the lakes. None but those who have been exposed to that dangerous navigation can fully appreciate the importance of this subject. The whole of north-west appeals to you for relief and I trust their appeal will receive due consideration at your hands.

The same is in a measure true in regard to some of the harbors and inlets on the coast. The unobstructed navigation of our large rivers is of equal importance. Our settlements are now extending to the sources of the great rivers which empty into, and form a part of the Mississippi, and the value of the public lands in those regions would be greatly enhanced by freeing the navigation of those waters from obstructions. In view therefore of this great interest I deem it my duty again to urge upon Congress to make such appropriations for these improvements as they may deem necessary.

By the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, we are bound to protect the treaty of Mexico against the incursions of the savage tribes within our border "with equal diligence and energy" as if the same were made within our territory or against our citizens. I have endeavored to comply, as far as possible, with this provision of the treaty. Orders have been given to the officers commanding on that frontier to consider the Mexican territory and its inhabitants as equally with our own entitled to their protection; and to make all their plans and arrangements with a view to the attainment of this object. Instructions have also been given to the Indian commissioners and agents among these tribes, in all treaties, to make the clause designed for the protection of our own citizens apply also to those of Mexico. I have no reason to doubt that these instructions have been fully carried into effect. Nevertheless, it is probable that, in spite of all our efforts, some of the neighboring States of Mexico may have suffered, as our own have, from depredations by the Indians.

To the difficulties of defending our own territory as above mentioned are superadded, in defending that of Mexico those that arise from its remoteness, from the fact that we have no right to station our troops within her limits, and that there is no efficient military force on the Mexican side to co-operate with our own. So long as this shall continue to be the case, the number and activity of our troops will rather increase than diminish the evil, as the Indians will naturally turn towards that country where they encounter the least resistance. Yet these troops are necessary to subdue them, and to compel them to make

and observe treaties. Until this shall have been done, neither country will enjoy any security from their attacks.

The report of the Postmaster General, herewith communicated, presents an interesting view of the progress, operations, and condition of his Department.

At the close of the last fiscal year, the length of mail routes within the United States was 196,290 miles; the annual transportation thereon \$2,272,252 miles; and the annual cost of such transportation \$3,421,654.

The length of the foreign mail routes is estimated at 18,349 miles; and the annual cost of this service is \$1,472,187, of which \$445,937, is paid by the Post Office Department, and \$1,026,250 is paid through the Navy Department.

The annual transportation within the United States (excluding the service in California and Oregon, which is now, for the first time, reported and embraced in the tabular statement of the Department) exceeds that of the preceding year 6,162,855 miles, at an increased cost of \$547,110.

The whole number of the post offices in the United States, on the 30th day of June last, was 19,795. There were 1,698 post offices established, and 256 discontinued, during the year.

The gross revenues of the Department for the fiscal year, including the appropriations for franked matter of Congress, of the Departments, and officers of Government, and excluding the foreign postages, collected for and payable to the British post office, amounted to \$6,727,666.78.

The expenditures for the same period (excluding \$20,599.49, paid under an award of the Auditor, in pursuance of a resolution of the last Congress, for mail service on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers in 1832 and 1833, and the amount paid to the British post office for foreign postages collected for and payable to that office) amounted to \$6,024,566.79, leaving a balance of revenue over the proper expenditures of the year of \$703,099.99.

The receipts for postages during the year (including the foreign postages collected for and payable to the British post office) amounted to \$6,345,747.21, being an increase of \$997,610.79, or 15.65 100 per cent. over the like receipts for the preceding year.

The reduction of postage, under the act of March last, did not take effect until the commencement of the present fiscal year. The accounts for the first quarter, under the operation of the reduced rates, will not be settled before January next; and no reliable estimate of the receipts for the present year can yet be made. It is believed, however, that they will fall far short of those of the last year. The surplus of the revenues now on hand is, however, so large, that no further appropriation from the treasury, in aid of the revenues of the Department, is required for the current fiscal year; but an additional appropriation for the year ending June 30, 1853, will probably be found necessary when the receipts of the first two quarters of the fiscal year are fully ascertained.

In his last annual report the Postmaster General recommended a reduction of postage to rates which he deemed as low as could be prudently adopted, unless Congress was prepared to appropriate from the treasury, for the support of the Department, a sum more than equivalent to the mail services performed by it for the Government. The recommendations of the Postmaster General, in respect to letter postage, except on letters from and to California and Oregon, were substantially adopted by the last Congress. He now recommends adherence to the present letter rates, and advises against a further reduction until justified by the revenues of the Department.

The great object to be accomplished was to make such an addition as would afford ample and convenient halls for the deliberations of the two houses of Congress with sufficient accommodations for spectators, and suitable apartments for the committee and officers of the two branches of the Legislature. It was also desirable to mark the harmony and beauty of the present structure, which, as a specimen of architecture, is so universally admired. Keeping these objects in view, I concluded to make the addition by wings, detached from the present building, yet connected with it by corridors. This mode of enlargement will leave the present Capitol unimpaired and afford great advantages for ventilation and the admission of light and will enable the work to progress without interrupting the deliberations of Congress. To carry this plan into effect I have appointed an experienced and competent architect. The cornerstone was laid on the 4th day of July last, with suitable ceremonies, since which time the work has advanced with commendable rapidity, and the foundations of both wings are now nearly complete.

It is deeply to be regretted that in several instances, officers of the Government, in attempting to execute the law for the return of fugitives from labor, have been openly resisted, and their efforts frustrated by lawless and violent mobs; that in one instance, such resistance resulted in the death of an estimable citizen, and in others serious injury caused to those officers and to individuals who were using their endeavors to sustain the laws. Prosecutions have been instituted against the alleged offenders, so far as they could be identified and are still pending. I have regarded it as my duty, in these cases, to give all aid legally in my power to the enforcement of the laws, and I shall continue to do so wherever and whenever their execution may be resisted. The act of Congress for the return of fugitives from labor is one required and demanded by the express words of the Constitution.

The Constitution declares, "That no person held to service or labor in one State under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered up on claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due." This constitutional provision is equally obligatory upon the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Departments of the Government, and upon every citizen of the United States.

Congress, however, must from necessity, first act upon the subject, by prescribing the proceedings necessary to ascertain that the person is a fugitive and the means to be used for his restoration to the claimant. This was done by an act passed during the first term of President Washington which was amended by that enacted by the last Congress, and it now remains for the Executive and Judicial departments to take care that these laws be faithfully executed. This injunction of the Constitution is as peremptory and binding as any other; it stands exactly on the same foundation as that clause which provides for the return of fugitives from justice, or that which declares that no bill of attainder or ex post facto law shall be passed, or that which provides for an equality of taxation according to the census, or the clause declaring that all duties shall be uniform throughout the United States, or the important provision that the trial of all crimes shall be by jury. These several articles and clauses of the Constitution, all resting on the same authority, must stand or fall together. Some objections have been urged against the details of the act for the return of fugitives from labor, but it is worthy of remark that the main opposition is aimed against the Constitution itself, and proceeds from persons, many of whom declare their wish to see that constitution overturned. They avow their hostility to any law which shall give full and practical effect to this requirement of the constitution. Fortunately, the number of those persons is comparatively small, and it is believed to be daily diminishing; but the issue which they present is one which involves the supremacy and even the existence of the constitution.

Cases have heretofore arisen in which individuals have denied the binding authority of acts of Congress, and even States have proposed to nullify such acts upon the ground that the constitution was the supreme law of the land, and that those acts of Congress were repugnant to that instrument; but nullification is now armed, not so much against particular laws as being inconsistent with the constitution itself, and it is not to be disguised that a spirit exists and has been actively at work to render subversive this union, which is our cherished inheritance from our revolutionary fathers.

In my last annual message I stated that I considered the series of measures, which had been adopted at the previous session, in reference to the agitation growing out of the Territorial and slavery questions, as a final settlement in principle and substance of the dangerous and exciting subjects which they embraced, and I recommended adherence to the Adjustment established by those measures, until time and experience should demonstrate the necessity of further legislation to guard against evasion or abuse. I was not induced to make this recommendation because I thought those measures perfect, for no human legislation can be perfect. Wide differences and jarring opinions can only be reconciled by yielding something on all sides, and this result had been reached after an angry conflict of many months, in which one part of the country was arrayed against another and violent convulsions seemed to be imminent. Looking at the interests of the whole country, I felt it to be my duty to seize upon this compromise as the best that could be obtained amid conflicting interests, and to insist upon it as a final settlement to be adhered to by all who value the peace and welfare of the country. A year has now elapsed since that recommendation was made. To that recommendation I still adhere, and I congratulate you and the country upon the general acquiescence in these measures of peace, which has been exhibited in all parts of the republic. And not only is there this general acquiescence in these measures, but the spirit of conciliation which has been manifested in regard to them in all parts of the country, has removed doubts and uncertainties in the minds of thousands of good men concerning the durability of our popular institutions, and given renewed assurance that our Liberty and our Union may subsist together for the benefit of this and all succeeding generations.

MILLARD FILLMORE.

Washington, December 2, 1851.

PRINTING OFFICE RULES.

The following rules, though published some time since, are not in the least impaired by age:

- 1st. Thou shalt not talk loud "too much," lest you might interrupt the printer, and cause him to be under the painful necessity of resorting to his stick to correct the errors of your folly.
- 2d. Thou shalt not touch the type, lest you might knock them into pi, and be the cause of the devil's dealing with pious matter.
- 3d. Thou shalt not look over the printer's shoulder at the copy under his guide—it is not ready for thine eye; and he feels a delicacy in asking you to annihilate the proceedings of your particular curiosity.
- 4th. Thou shalt not read the copy on the file; lest thou mar the printer's quietness, and make the devil think you are a curious specimen of human nature.
- 5th. Thou shalt not ask the printer who was the author of some piece you may have seen in his paper—he will not tell thee.

FROM MAJOR JACK DOWNING.

[We were really rejoiced yesterday to receive the subjoined letter from our old friend and favorite Major Downing; who, from his long silence, we had begun to fear had gone to that bourne to which he seems to approach we must ourselves have departed. We hope now to hear from him more frequently. Editors Nat. Intell.]

D. WINGVILLE, DOWN EAST IN THE STATE OF MAINE.

November 10, 1851.

MR. GALE & SEATON: My dear old friends, if you are yet in the land of the living, I long to have a little talk with you about the affairs of the nation. And if you are in the land of the living, but have dropped off since I've been away to the gold diggings of California, if you'll contrive to let me know it, I'll go to one of the "spirit cappers" (cousin Nabby knows one of 'em) and try to have a chat with you that way. And my old Mr. Ritchie too, I want to have a chat along with him. But I don't know where to find him, for Uncle Joshua tells me he isn't in the Washington Union paper now, and they've "carried him back to Old Virginia." Now that's very bad; it's treason against the Government. How can the country get along through a Presidential campaign without Mr. Ritchie? They never have done it, and it can't be done; it's impossible. I don't know who they've got in his place in the Union, nor I don't care; but I know they never will find one that can fight again the Federalists like Mr. Ritchie. How many times has he saved the country from being cut up by Federalists; and, what's very remarkable, he could fight again for years and years after they were all dead, just as well as he could when they were alive.—There's to be a great battle for the next President, and we can't get along without Mr. Ritchie. He ought not to be a gone off so; he owed his services to the country, and he ought to be brought back to Washington under the "fugitive slave law." That law is carried out every where here to the North, and we expect it to be carried out to the South. What is a man for good as a man? If the South wants to keep the North in the Union, she must give some good strong proof that she is willing to fulfill and carry out the fugitive slave law. And she couldn't do it any better than to catch Mr. Ritchie and carry him back to Washington, and shut him up in the Union paper office, and put a ream of paper before him and a pen in his hand, and set him to writing about the next Presidency. Then the dark fog that now hangs over the whole country would begin to be blown away, and parties could begin to see where they are again; and the knots and the snarls of politics would begin to be unravelled, so that we could all tell where to take hold and pull with a fair chance of doing some good. Then we might stand a good chance to get a President next year. But as things now go the chance looks slim enough.

Times isn't now as they used to be, when we had only two parties, and every body could tell who he was fighting against. Then a single blast from Major Bon Russell in the old Boston Centinel would call out all the Federalists in the country, and make 'em draw up in a straight line; and then another blast from Mr. Ritchie in the Richmond Enquirer would call out all the Republicans into another line—and when these two parties were called out there wasn't nobody left but women and children—and then the two parties had a clear field before 'em, and marched up face to face and had a fair fight, and they always knew which got whipt. But things isn't so now a days. There's more parties now than you can shake a stick at, and they face in all manner of ways, so that when you are fighting for one party, it would puzzle a Philadelpy lawyer to tell what parties you are fighting against, or to tell who is whipt when the battle's over; I didn't know things was in quite so bad a snarl till I got home 'other day from California, and not down and had a long talk with Uncle Joshua, who told me all about it. Uncle Joshua is getting old, but he holds his age remarkable well; I think full equal to Mr. Ritchie; and I don't see but he keeps the run of politics as well as he used to.

Says I, "Uncle Joshua, what's the prospect about the Presidency?" "Well," says he, "Major,"—he always calls me Major—says he, "Major there ain't no prospect at all."

"How so," says I; "how can you make that out?"

"Well," says he, "there are so many parties now, and they are all mixed up, higgledy-piggledy, that you can't see through 'em with the longest spyglass that ever was made.—That's why there ain't no prospect at all."

"Well, now Uncle Joshua," says I, "jest name over all these parties, so I can begin to have some idea of them."

"Well," says he, "we'll begin first south side of Mason and Dixon's line. There's the old Whig party, the old Democrat party, and the party of Union Whigs, and the party of Secession Whigs, and the party of Union Democrats, and the party of absolute Secessionists, and the party of Co-operation Secessionists. And then if we come to the north side of Mason and Dixon's line, we find the regular Whig party, and the regular Democratic party, and the Union Whigs, and the Abolition Whig, and the Union Democrats, and the Abolition Democrats, and the Silvery Whigs, and the Woolly head Whigs, and the Hunker Democrats, and the Harrisburner Democrats, and the Seward

party, and the Union Safety Committee party, and the regular Free soil party, and the regular Vote-yourself-a-Farm party."

Here Uncle Joshua paused a little, and Aunt Kozah laid down her tin to work, and looked over her spectacles, and says she to me, "Your uncle Joshua must have a wonderful memory to keep all them hard names in his head; for my part, I don't see how he does it." Then cousin Nabby ran clapped her hands and laughed, and says she, "Now cousin Jack which party do you belong to?"

Says I, "I'll be hanged if I know. If the old General was alive—I mean old Hickory—I'd go with his party, let it be which 'twould; or then I should know I was going for the country. The old General was always ready to fight for the country against Bank money, and a Northern money, and all sorts of monstrosities."

"Well, now," says Uncle Joshua, "how do you suppose we are going to work to make a President with all these parties in the field, fighting, cross-battling, and party corners, and every which way?"

"I'm sure I can't see," says I, "unless we can get up a party that will surround the whole of 'em, and be Irish corporal surrounded the half-dressed soldiers that he took prisoners."

"What do you think of Mr. Calhoun's plan," said Uncle Joshua, "that's laid down in his works just published?"

"What's that?" says I, "I don't think I've heard of it."

"Well," says he, "he recommends to choose two Presidents, one for the North and one for South, each side of Mason and Dixon's line; and so the law of Congress to become a law till it is signed by both Presidents. How think that would work?"

"Well, I guess," says I, "if the country depended upon laws to live on, it would starve to death, as sure as the ass between the two bundles of hay."

At that cousin Nabby spoke up, and says she, "Mere like the country would be like a bundle of hay between two asses, and would get cut up pretty quick."

Uncle Joshua couldn't help smiling; but he looked round as sober as he could, and says he, "Come, come, Nabby you hush up; what do you know about politics?"

"Well, now," says I, "let us look at this plan of Mr. Calhoun's a little, and see what it amounts to. His notion was that there were two parties, one North and one South of Mason and Dixon's line, and that under one President they never could agree, but would always be quarrelling and fighting and enmity; but if each party could choose a President, then they would get along smooth and quiet, and live as peaceable as lambs. Now if the doctrine is good for two parties, it is good for twenty. So, if Mr. Calhoun was right, the best way would be to let the twenty parties that are now quarrelling like cats and dogs, go to work and each party choose a President for itself. Then, what a happy, peaceable time we should have of it."

"Well, you're fairly run it into the ground now," says Uncle Joshua, "and I guess we may as well let it stick there. I'm more troubled about electing one President than I am two, or twenty; and I should like to get your ideas how it can be done. I know General Jackson used to think a great deal of your opinion, may be you can contrive some way to get us out of this hurly burly that we are in, so that we can make a President next year when the time comes round."

"Well," says I, "Uncle Joshua, according to what you say, about the parties now-a-days, all split up into flinders, and cross-grained every way, I don't think there's much chance for any of 'em to elect a President, especially if Mr. Ritchie don't help. But for all that, there's two ways of doing it. One way is, to get up a new party that shall surround all the other parties—I mean a real constitutional party, an out and out national party; a party that will stand up to the rack, fodder or no fodder, and go for the Union, the whole Union, and nothing but the Union, live or die. This party would have to be made up of the twenty parties you have named, so I guess we might as well call it the party of 'National Comouters.'"

"The 'other way would be, to get up a sort of revolution-annexation-manifest destiny glory party, and have a great banner pointed, with Cuba on one end and Canada on 'other end and what there is left of Mexico in the middle; and get up a great torch light procession from one end of the country to the other, and hire Kossuth when he gets over here to make stump speeches for our candidates through all the States. If we didn't elect him, I'd go into retirement and settle on the banks of Salt River for life."

"Well, Major," says Uncle Joshua, "I think a good deal of your notions, and I wish you would think the matter over, and draw up some plan for us to go by, for it's high time we was doing something."

So Mr. Gale & Seaton, I remain your old friend,

MAJOR JACK DOWNING.

NEGROES TO HIRE.

On Saturday the 27th inst. in the public square of Charlotte will be hired 28 or 30

Likely Negro Men,

WOMEN and CHILDREN—the property of the Minor heirs of Mary McRaven. Individuals who have had possession of said negroes during the present year are requested to deliver them in Charlotte on the morning of the 26th inst.

B. OATES,
S. N. HUTCHISON.
Guardians.